

Family Advent Devotions

Presbyterian Church of
The Master

2020

Background

Advent is the season leading to Christmas in which we prepare for the coming of Christ, not only the birth of Jesus at Christmas, but the future coming of Christ when creation is fulfilled. Advent is not just a preparation time, but an important time of its own.

Purple, a royal color is the color for Advent. Three of the five candles are purple. The candle for the third Sunday, which is pink, represents joy's kindly light.



The Advent wreath is circular in shape with four candles that are available for you in the church office. While rings are sold for this purpose, you can make your Advent wreath out of candle holders that you already have around your house. You can decorate your wreath with fresh or artificial greens. The white Christ Candle goes in the center of the wreath and will be lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Morning.

The wreath should be in a central location in the home, like a kitchen or dining table or anyplace the family regularly gathers. Worship time can take place on Sunday afternoon or evening. Roles for worship can be divided among family members or one member of the family can lead. A video of a soloist will be posted on our You Tube channel each week for you to sing along with. The scriptures provided are from the New Revised Standard Version, but you may use your own preferred translation.

Care should always be taken with lighting candles and no candle should ever be left burning unattended! Especially around dried greens!

November 29, 2020 The First Sunday of Advent

Hope

Call to Worship: "Hope" is the thing with feathers - That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words - And never stops - at all -
Emily Dickinson

Read Jeremiah 33:14-15

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Sing: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. O Come, O Come Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O Come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy strife and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Light First Candle (purple) and Say

In every age and this year in particular, we need to trust in the Hope we have in Christ. We hope for the Savior's love to be shared with our friends and cover the world.

Pray: Living God, we need not live in darkness because you sent your Son to us to light up our world. Help us prepare our hearts and our homes for Christmas. Amen.

December 6, 2020 The Second Sunday of Advent

Love

Call to Worship: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that."

— Martin Luther King Jr.

Read 1 John 4:9-12

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Sing: People, Look East

1. People Look east, The Time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love the Guest, is on the way.
2. Stars keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moons together.
People look east and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.

Light First and Second Candles (both purple) and Say

In every age and this year in particular, we need to trust in the love we have in Christ. We hope for the Savior's love to be shared with our friends and cover the world.

Pray: Living God, we thank you for the love that Christmas is all about. Help us to always keep our hearts filled with love that we may always respond to those in need. Amen.

December 13, 2020 The Third Sunday of Advent

Joy

Call to Worship: "Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God."

— Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Read Luke 2:8-12

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Sing: Joy to the World

1. Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

Light First, Second, and Third Candles (two purples and one pink) and Say
In every age and this year in particular, we need to trust in the joy we have
in Christ. We hope for the Savior's joy to be shared with our friends and
cover the world.

Pray: Living God, we thank you for the great joy of this season. May we
proclaim our joy to everyone we know. Amen.

December 20, 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Peace

Call to Worship: "We shall find peace. We shall hear angels, we shall see the sky sparkling with diamonds."

— Anton Chekhov

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Sing: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

1. Hark! The herald angels sing. Jesus the light of the world.
Glory to the newborn king, Jesus the light of the world.
We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by night. Jesus the light of the world.
2. Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace! Jesus the light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righteousness! Jesus the light of the world.
We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by night. Jesus the light of the world.

Light First, Second, Third, and Fourth Candles (two purples, one pink, and one purple) and Say

In every age and this year in particular, we need to trust in the peace we have in Christ. We hope for the Savior's peace to be shared with our friends and cover the world.

Pray: Living God, we thank you for the great peace that comes from the gift of your Son. May we know true peace in our hearts, our homes, our world. Amen.

December 24 Or 25, 2020
Christmas Eve/Day
The Birth of the Messiah

Call to Worship: "God is here. This truth should fill our lives, and every Christmas should be for us a new and special meeting with God, when we allow God's light and grace to enter deep into our soul."

— Josemaría Escrivá

Read John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Sing: Christmas Eve: Silent Night

1. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
`round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.

Sing: Christmas Day: O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and Behold him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him; Christ, the Lord!
2. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come let us adore him; O come let us adore him;
O come let us adore him; Christ, the Lord!

Light First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Christ Candles (two purples, one pink, one purple and the center white candle) and Say
Our hope, love, joy, and peace are complete in Christ! The light of Christ is born today in our world! Alleluia! Welcome, Lord Jesus! Be born anew in this world!

Pray: Glory be to you, O God Almighty! You have given us your only Son, that we might be truly alive in Christ! Glory be to you, O Lord Jesus Christ who became human that we might be children of God. Glory be to you, O Holy Spirit who directs and rules our hearts. One God, now and forever, world without end. Amen.

Wish each other a Very, Merry Christmas!